

2.7 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

In 2003, ADOT published Arizona's Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which suggested design and maintenance guidelines, provided maps and recommended implementation strategies for the State's bicycle and pedestrian network. The Plan identified four projects within the study area that would enhance bicycle and pedestrian mobility. The scope of these projects included the retrofitting of sidewalks, landscaping and scour or the reconstruction of streets, curbs and sidewalks. The majority of these improvements are sited in Nogales. Eight additional projects—which include construction of parallel roadways along US-191—were classified as potential improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian networks.

Most of the areas within the Eastern Regional Framework Study are categorized as non-urbanized or rural—communities that are less likely to develop an extensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans. Any planning for the area's bicycle and pedestrian network would be addressed in a regional or local plan.

Mogollon Rim Focus Area

The Town of Payson is the only incorporated area within this section of the region that has an adopted bicycle and pedestrian guideline. The Town has two existing bikeways – one along McLane Road and another along Airport Road. The guidelines set in the Town's General Plan direct the construction of new infrastructure.

Copper Country Focus Area

Regional studies within the Copper Country Focus Area are primarily planning/engineering resource for locating information on bicycle and pedestrian guidelines. Gila County has incorporated bicycle and pedestrian guidelines in their Comprehensive Plan. Noted in the report's Transportation Element, the existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities are located within the communities of Globe, Miami and Payson. A map of the proposed Bicycle Route and Multi-Use Path was incorporated into the 1998 Graham County Regional Transportation Study. The proposed network is a combination of designated existing and planned roadways. Several bicycle and pedestrian travel improvement projects are discussed within the Southern Greenlee County Small Area Transportation Study. Slated enhancements include the multi-use pathway in York Valley, the Sandra Day O'Connor Walkway and the recommended trail system that should connect to paths in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.

City of Safford is the only city in the region that has completed a bicycle and pedestrian multi-use plan. In addition, the City—in conjunction with the Town of Thatcher—was awarded a grant to build multi-use paths along 20th Avenue to connect Safford and Thatcher. Additionally, the Town of Thatcher General Plan Update includes a review of the proposed bicycle and pedestrian pathway along Reay Lane, Golf Course Road and a segment of the Highline Canal.

Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area

Bisbee and Sierra Vista have incorporated guidelines for bicycle and pedestrian networks into the Transportation/Circulation Elements of their General Plan. These are commonly build/design guidelines that do not specify the routes for these systems.

The cities of Benson and Douglas adopted Small Area Transportation Studies which recommend they develop non-motorized transportation plans. The City of Benson's plan suggests the City produce a comprehensive Bikeway and Trails Master Plan. The City of Douglas Small Area Transportation Study noted the City should create a comprehensive bicycle system plan. The proposed plan should include design/build guidelines, funding plan and an extensive route plan which would interconnect existing and future activity centers.

In addition to the projects identified in Arizona's Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the Unified Nogales/Santa Cruz County Transportation 2000 Plan is the only other publication to address the region's bicycle and pedestrian network. Within the Plan, the City of Nogales was tasked with initiating the development of a Bike and Pedestrian Plan. No guidelines were adopted.